



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—MARCH 2013

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **New EPA Rules Would Make Your Car Run Better And Cleaner**—The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a new set of regulations—known as Tier 3 Vehicle Standards. The rules would reduce the amount of sulfur present in gasoline before our cars burn it.
- **Over 110,000 New Clean Jobs Announced in 2012; California Leads the Nation**—Good news came from Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) with an analysis that tracked more than 110,000 new clean energy jobs announced by more than 300 U.S. companies and state and local clean economy programs in every region of the country in 2012.
- **Keystone XL Pipeline Clears Hurdle as State Report Downplays Climate Impact**—A draft State Department report concludes that building the Keystone XL pipeline would not speed up development of Canada's tar sands, dealing a blow to environmentalists who claim Keystone would worsen climate change.
- **Yellowstone gets real about budget cuts**—Mandatory cuts kicked in three days before the plows were to start clearing snow and ice from 300 roads at altitudes that reach 11,000 feet. Faced with an order from Washington to slice \$1.8 million from his budget, the park superintendent considered his options.
- **Top U.S. Admiral: Climate Change Biggest Threat**—Despite renewed threats from nuclear North Korea, missile stockpiling in China and a standoff between China and Japan over a small string of islands, the head of the U.S. Navy's Pacific fleet has declared the greatest threat to long-term peace in the region is climate change.
- **Obama Will Use Nixon-Era Law to Fight Climate Change**—President Barack Obama is preparing to tell all federal agencies for the first time that they have to consider the impact on global warming before approving major projects, from pipelines to highways.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Vice-Chair Rep. Jared Polis: H.R. 1154 BREATHE Act

Bill Summary: Reverse the exemption of oil and gas exploration and production activities from the Clean Air Act's aggregation requirement and add hydrogen sulfide to the federal list of hazardous air pollutants.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SEEC Announced Leadership for 113th Congress—SEEC was pleased to announce its leadership for the 113th Congress. SEEC leadership includes three Co-Chairs: **Steve Israel** (D-NY), **Gerald Connolly** (VA), **Paul Tonko** (NY); and four Vice-Chairs: **Chellie Pingree** (ME), **Rush Holt** (NJ), **Jared Polis** (CO), and **Doris Matsui** (CA). Rep. Pingree will lead the group's membership, reaching out to new members and coordinating the current membership; Rep. Holt will serve as the Coalition's whip, building unity for legislative priorities and positions; Rep. Polis will coordinate the Coalition's environment outreach, working with leaders in the environmental community to move the Coalition's priorities and develop new initiatives; and Rep. Matsui will coordinate the Coalition's energy outreach, working with leaders in the energy community to move the Coalition's priorities and develop new initiatives.

Members Engage with the EPA—SEEC Members met with EPA Acting Administrator Bob Perciasepe to discuss impacts of sequestration, climate change, and pending rulemakings.

SEEC Members to HUD: Support Hurricane-Resilient Energy Systems—25 SEEC Members, along with 8 of their House colleagues, sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The letter encourages HUD, as part of their Hurricane Sandy rebuilding efforts, to issue guidance to states and localities regarding the installation of combined heat and power (CHP) systems. Members included: co-chairs **Paul Tonko** (NY), **Steve Israel** (NY), and **Gerald Connolly** (VA); vice-chairs **Rush Holt** (NJ), **Chellie Pingree** (ME), and **Doris Matsui** (CA); members **Jim Moran** (VA), **Chris Van Hollen** (MD), **Mike Quigley** (IL), **Matt Cartwright** (PA), **Niki Tsongas** (MA), **Peter Welch** (VT), **Bill Keating** (MA), **David Price** (NC), **Jared Huffman** (CA), **Tim Ryan** (OH), **Mike Honda** (CA), **Jim Himes** (CT), **Lois Capps** (CA), **John Larson** (CT), **Jim Langevin** (RI), **Louise Slaughter** (NY), **Steve Cohen** (TN), **Raul Grijalva** (AZ), and **Jan Schakowsky** (IL).

SEEC Member Drops Measure to Protect Great Apes—SEEC Member **George Miller** (CA) re-introduced the Great Apes Conservation Reauthorization Act. If enacted, his bill would reauthorize a successful federal program to help conserve threatened great ape populations around the world, allowing for federal funding of international conservation efforts for gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, bonobos and other great apes that are at grave risk from poachers, deforestation, and other development.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **55 percent:** Amount of US rivers and streams that are in poor biological health, according to the EPA
- ◆ **1995:** The last time oil exports exceeded oil imports, which EIA projects will happen again during the 4th quarter of 2014
- ◆ **\$106,000,000:** Revenue generated from RGGI's 19th auction of CO2 allowances, marked for investment in clean energy technologies
- ◆ **43 percent:** Increase in the amount US electric customers are now paying to build and maintain local power grids over 2002
- ◆ **180:** Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations added in the US each month

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

@GerryConnolly: Good [@SEEC](#) meeting w/ [@EPAGov](#) Acting Admin Perciasepe. Very concerned about sequestration's impact on EPA's ability to protect communities

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